

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9-12, and 14, cancel Claims 15-18, and add new Claims 22-24. A complete copy of the claims including marked-up versions of each claim which is amended in this Amendment appears below.

1 1. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating communication between fixed and
2 handheld devices using infrared communication, said handheld device adapted to be
3 operated by a user, said system comprising:

4 a first infrared transmitter and a first infrared receiver, said first infrared
5 transmitter and said first infrared receiver being located in said fixed device, said fixed
6 device having a normal mode in which said first infrared transmitter transmits ranging
7 pulses and said first infrared receiver detects those of said ranging pulses transmitted
8 from said first infrared transmitter which are reflected by an object located in a
9 predetermined area, said fixed device also having a communication mode, allowing
10 bidirectional communication between said handheld device and said first device;

11 a second infrared transmitter and a second infrared receiver, said second infrared
12 transmitter and said second infrared receiver being located in said handheld device;

13 second control logic located in said handheld device, ~~which is~~ said second control
14 logic configured to cause an Attention Signal to be emitted from said second infrared
15 transmitter in response to an initiation command provided by a user, said Attention Signal

16 being received by said first infrared receiver if said second infrared ~~transmitted~~
17 transmitter in said handheld device is located within detection range of said ~~receiving~~
18 ~~detector~~; first infrared receiver; and
19 ~~receiving~~ first control logic located in said fixed device which is configured to
20 discontinue transmission of ranging pulses of said first infrared transmitter upon
21 detection of said Attention Signal, whereupon said fixed device changes from said
22 normal mode to said communication mode, thereby allowing an optical communication
23 link to be initiated between said first infrared transmitter and said second infrared
24 receiver and between said second infrared transmitter and said first infrared receiver, and
25 said first control logic causes first infrared transmitter to transmit signals representing
26 device-specific data of said first device to said second infrared receiver of said handheld
27 device over said optical communication link.

1 Claim 2 (Cancelled).

1 3. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating communication between ~~first and~~
2 ~~second infrared devices~~ a fluid dispensing device and a handheld control device, said
3 system comprising:
4 a) a first transmitter and a first detector located in said ~~first infrared~~ handheld
5 control device;

6 b) said fluid dispensing device including a second transmitter and a second
7 detector ~~located in said second infrared device~~, said ~~second infrared~~ fluid dispensing
8 device having a normal mode in which said second transmitter transmits ranging pulses
9 and said second receiver detects those of said ranging pulses transmitted from said
10 second transmitter which are reflected by an object located in a predetermined area, said
11 ~~second infrared~~ fluid dispensing device also having a communication mode in which said
12 second transmitter transmits signals to said handheld device, ~~said second transmitter~~
13 ~~transmitting pulses in both said normal mode and in said communication mode~~;
14 broadcast control logic located in said ~~second infrared~~ fluid dispensing device and
15 configured to respond to an initiation command provided by a user to emit from said
16 second transmitter a Broadcast Signal indicating an error relating to an operating
17 condition of said fluid dispensing device ~~errors detected in said communication mode~~;
18 and
19 receiving control logic located in said ~~first infrared~~ handheld control device and
20 configured to identify said Broadcast Signal following its receipt by said first ~~receiver~~
21 detector.

1 4. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating between fixed and handheld
2 devices using infrared communication, said handheld device adapted to be operated by a
3 user, said method comprising:

4 providing a first infrared transmitter and a first infrared receiver which are located
5 in said fixed device, said fixed device having a normal mode in which said first infrared
6 transmitter transmits ranging pulses and said first infrared receiver detects those of said
7 ranging pulses transmitted from said first infrared transmitter which are reflected by an
8 object located in a predetermined area, said fixed device also having a communication
9 mode, allowing bidirectional communication between said handheld device and said first
10 device;

11 providing a second infrared transmitter and a second infrared receiver which are
12 located in said handheld device;

13 emitting ~~an~~ a user-initiated Attention Signal from said second infrared transmitter
14 within the detection range of said first infrared receiver;

15 receiving the Attention Signal with ~~said~~ said first infrared receiver if said second
16 infrared transmitted in said handheld device is located within detection range of said first
17 infrared receiver;

18 discontinuing the transmission of said ranging pulses from said first infrared
19 transmitter; ~~and~~

20 establishing a an optical data link between said first infrared transmitter and said
21 second infrared receiver and between said second infrared transmitter and said first
22 infrared receiver; and

23 causing said first infrared transmitter to transmit signals representing device-
24 specific data of said first device to said second infrared receiver over said optical data
25 link.

1 5. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said first infrared
2 receiver comprises an infrared detector capable of detecting said Attention Signal and
3 said ranging pulses.

1 6. (Currently Amended) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said second
2 infrared receiver comprises an infrared detector capable of detecting signals generated
3 from said first infrared transmitter when said fixed device is in said ~~communications~~
4 communication mode.

1 7. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said fixed device
2 comprises a fluid dispensing device.

1 8. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 7, wherein said fluid
2 dispensing device is actuated to dispense fluid upon the receipt of reflected ranging
3 pulses by said first infrared receiver.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein signals generated
2 from said first infrared transmitter when said fixed device is in said ~~communications~~
3 communication mode provide an indication of the operational status of said fixed device.

1 10. (Currently Amended) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein signals generated
2 from said second infrared transmitter when said fixed device is in said ~~communications~~
3 communication mode are used to interrogate said fixed device.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein signals generated
2 from said second infrared transmitter when said fixed device is in said ~~communications~~
3 communication mode are used to program said fixed device.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein signals generated
2 from said second infrared transmitter when said fixed device is in said ~~communications~~
3 mode are used to provide information relating to the past operation of said fixed device.

1 13. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said ranging
2 pulses each comprise a sequence of pulses.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said ranging pulses
2 comprises pulses having a repetition rate of ~~between two and ten~~ four Hertz.

1 Claims 15-18 (Cancelled).

1 19. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said first infrared
2 receiver and said second infrared receiver each comprise at least one photo detector.

1 20. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 1, first infrared transmitter
2 and said second infrared transmitter each comprise an LED.

1 21. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 1, additionally comprising a
2 threshold detector for comparing said reflected ranging pulses to a threshold value.

1 22. (New) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said handheld device is selectively
2 operable to provide a plurality of user selected functions, including sending a status
3 request, sending a set command and sending a program command.

1 23. (New) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the duration of said Attention
2 signal is greater than the duration of a normal pulse cycle for the ranging pulses.

1 24. (New) A system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the initiation command provided
2 by the user causes the second control logic to initiate a scanning function to search for
3 Broadcast signals.